

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 075898
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
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STR:TREGAN
COMMERCE:DSCHLECHTY
TREASURY:EBARBER

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R 240242Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN BY POUCH

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USOECN ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, MTN, FR, EC
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PAGE 02 STATE 075898

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON FRENCH PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE POLICY

REFS: (A) PARIS 8447, (B) BRUSSELS 5511

1. WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BY GOF DECISION TO ADOPT,
FORMALLY AT THE CABINET LEVEL, A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO

INCREASE FRENCH PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE BY LIMITING U.S. AND OTHER EXPORTERS' ACCESS TO THE EC PROTEIN MARKET. WHILE THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION FOR THIS POLICY STATEMENT WAS NO DOUBT GOF DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE FARM COMMUNITY PRIOR TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS, REDUCED PROTEIN IMPORTS, PARTICULARLY OF SOYBEANS, IS A LONG STANDING FRENCH OBJECTIVE AND THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOF WILL NOT PURSUE THE ACTION PROGRAM IT HAS FORMULATED. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO REITERATE U.S. OPPOSITION TO ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S. ACCESS TO THE EC MARKET FOR FEED PROTEINS.

2. EMBASSY PARIS REQUESTED TO CONVEY FOLLOWING VIEWS TO GOF AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL.

-- THE USG IS CONCERNED AT THE ACTION PROGRAM FOR PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON FEBRUARY 22.

-- MANY OF THE POLICIES WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE REPORTEDLY INTENDS TO URGE THE EC TO ADOPT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE EC AND OF THE GOF UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE AND WOULD NULLIFY OR SEVERELY IMPAIR BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE UNITED STATES FROM IMPORTANT TRADE CONCESSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 075898

GRANTED TO THE UNITED STATES IN THE FIFTH (DILLON) ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS.

-- WHILE THE USG IS CONFIDENT THAT THE EC WILL HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS TRADING PARTNERS, THE ESPOUSAL OF SUCH POSITIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE COULD BE TAKEN IN IMPORTANT SECTORS OF U.S. PUBLIC OPINION AS AN INDICATION THAT AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HOLDS IN LITTLE REGARD IMPORTANT OBLIGATIONS CONTRACTED BY THE COMMUNITIES WITH ITS TRADING PARTNERS, IN PARTICULAR WITH THE UNITED STATES. CONTINUED ADVOCACY OF SUCH POLICIES BY THE GOF, FURTHERMORE, WOULD UNDERMINE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE PUBLIC SUPPORT REQUIRED TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE OPEN TRADE POLICIES.

-- WE THEREFORE URGE THE GOF TO RE-EXAMINE ITS RECENTLY ADOPTED POLICIES TO ACHIEVE PROTEIN INDEPENDENCE.

3. USEEC SHOULD INFORM COMMISSION OF U.S. DEMARCHE TO PARIS AND NOTE WITH APPRECIATION FIRM STAND ON PROTEIN

IMPORTS TAKEN BY AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH IN
REMARKS BEFORE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. VANCE

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